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SUBJECT: MFA PROVIDES "TRANSPARENCY" ON SCO SUMMIT AND
JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES

Classified By: Classified by Deputy Chief of Mission Dan Piccuta. Reas
ons 1.4 (B/D).

11. (C) Summary: MFA Officials called in the DCM to tell him the SCO Summit will cover economic development, counterterrorism (CT) and regional stability, with joint military exercises in Urumqi, China and Chelyabinsk, Russia to follow. The SCO heads of state, along with the Presidents of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia and Iran and the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan will observe exercises in Russia. The Chinese government hopes that sharing information will address United States' "concerns" about the SCO activities. End Summary.

Upcoming Summit

12. (C) MFA DG for European Affairs Zheng Guoping called in the DCM to the MFA August 8 to brief him on the upcoming August 16 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Zheng said the SCO was founded "to increase regional stability and security and to increase communal development." The SCO is non-aligned and does not target other nations, he said. All member nations are economically underdeveloped and the primary goal of the SCO is "self-development and the creation of livelihood for the citizens of member nations.⁸ Zheng said the upcoming summit is a regular SCO meeting to discuss progress since the previous summit, held in Shanghai in June, 2006. China expects summit deliverables to include a "treaty of long-term neighborly cooperation," the "Bishkek declaration" and unspecified "joint communiqués." He did not elaborate.

U.S. Role in Central Asia

13. (C) Zheng acknowledged close U.S. ties with Central Asia, and stated that more prosperity in the region will lead to more unity, stability and security. The SCO, therefore, deserves support. He also anticipates future SCO cooperation with the United States in the areas of counter terrorism, counter narcotics, trade and economic development.

Joint Military Exercises

14. (C) Zheng said counter-terrorism military exercises following the SCO summit will begin on August 9 in Urumqi and

then move to Chelyabinsk, Russia. They will comprise command-post exercises and partial field training. The SCO heads of State plus the presidents of Mongolia and Iran and the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan, observer nations of the SCO, will observe the exercises. Summit host-nation Kyrgyzstan also extended invitations to the presidents of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, and to UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe. Russia invited the U.S. Defense Attache in Moscow to observe the military exercise. All observers will travel directly from Bishkek to Chelyabinsk, and will not attend the exercises in Urumqi.

¶5. (C) Zheng disputed past characterizations of the SCO as a "NATO in Asia" with an anti-Western focus. He characterized previous U.S. concerns about SCO meetings and joint military exercises as "demonization," and said China provided this information in the hope that the United States "will not take this approach." He added that while open communication amongst diplomats is important, he hopes that this information will not be given to the press.

¶6. (C) DCM welcomed additional communication on SCO intentions and activities, and the opportunity for a detailed briefing following the summit and exercise, which they promised.
RANDT